increase in the population of the cities located along the river Ganga. As for meeting the problem of proper and scientific cremation of dead bodies, assistance for 31 Electric Crematoria (EC), and for 4 Improved Wood Crematoria (IWC) has been provided to the States located along the River Ganga. Assistance has also been given for creation of public awareness for keeping the river clean.

The activities under GAP-II continue to be under approval and implementation as per the proposals received from the State Governments in accordance with the guidelines laid down in this regard.

Killing of lions in Gir Forest

2802. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of lions in Gir Forest killed by the intruders during the last three years ending 31st December, 2006 and during 2007 so far year-wise;

(b) whether the involvement of the forest staff in these crimes against the wildlife has been required into; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken against those found involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As reported by the State Government of Gujarat, the number of lions killed by the intruders in Gir Forest during the last three years ending on 31st December 2006 and in 2007 are as under:

Year	No. of lions killed
2004	Nil
2005	2
2006	Nil
2007 (upto 19th april 07)	6

(b) As informed by the State Government of Gujarat, investigation by CID crime is in progress. No involvement of any Forest staff has been noticed so far.

(c) Does not arise.